

citizens second. It still allows decisions about whom to target, and how aggressively to go after acquaintances of acquaintances of targets, to be made by mid-level intelligence community employees, not federal judges. This so-called “two-hops” surveillance casts a very wide net that can reach millions of people.

Most important, the fundamental decisions made under the authorities provided in this bill will be made using a weak, inferior standard that does not reach the probable cause standard. In other words, the government can spy on people based on weak suspicions and not on legally established probable cause.

Now, my friends say, “Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good.” The perfect? How could anyone here vote for legislation that doesn’t uphold the constitutional standard of probable cause?

Probable cause has been well established in law for two centuries to keep Americans secure by keeping intelligence and enforcement officers focused on real threats, not on vague suspicions or wild-goose chases. Indeed, the debate over adding a Bill of Rights to the Constitution was about raising the standard for the government’s legal interaction with its citizens, not lowering it as we are now. That standard for the behavior of intelligence and law enforcement officers is not archaic. The power of the government to oppress individuals based on false suspicions is not less, but greater, than when the Constitution and Bill of Rights were written.

The bill also fails to deal with some of the most important abuses revealed over the last year. It provides no protection for national security whistleblowers, whose revelations over the last decade are the only reason why we are finally having such a public debate on this issue. The secrecy of the Intelligence Community is so complete that Congress will never be able to have meaningful oversight without whistleblowers from within the community, and rarely will they speak up without some protection against firing or worse. And human nature has not changed. The propensity for investigators to let their suspicions get the better of them is as great as it ever was—even well intentioned investigators.

The bill also allows the government to continue surreptitiously to compromise encryption and privacy technology built into American electronics and software products, putting at direct risk America’s hi-tech business sector and the jobs it provides.

A decade ago there was a major change in the relationship between Americans and their government. This bill does not correct it. Members should reject this badly flawed bill and the House leadership should allow an open debate on a real surveillance reform bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 23rd Annual

Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. The Best of Reston Awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place. I am pleased to enter the names of the following recipients of the 2014 Best of Reston Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Individual Community Leader: Carol Ann Bradley. Ms. Bradley has dedicated herself to service both locally and globally. She has worked with Global Camps Africa, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, the Embury Rucker Community Shelter, the Southgate Community Center, the Reston Community Center, the American Association of University Women, The Links, Inc. and Educators, Then, Now and Forever.

Individual Community Leader: Jerry Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson uses his broadcasting skills to highlight local nonprofits. He is the director of Development and Outreach for Fairfax Public Access, which provides television and radio cablecasting services to the region. As a volunteer he has filmed and produced videos for numerous nonprofits and civic groups.

Individual Community Leader: Cate Fulkerson. Ms. Fulkerson began serving Reston as an entry-level clerk at the Reston Association and climbed the ladder to her present role there, Chief Executive Officer. She also serves as the chair for the Reston Character Counts! Coalition, chairs the annual Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce’s Ethics Day for South Lakes High School, and remains active in Leadership Fairfax.

Individual Community Leader: Bonnie Haukness. Mrs. Haukness has given 40 years of service in many aspects of the Reston community. She is a board member of the Reston Historic Trust and Reston Museum, and she chairs its annual fundraiser, the Reston Homes Tour. She also co-chairs fundraisers for Cornerstones, helps organize the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, and also has led the Friends of Reston’s fundraising event to send children to summer day camp.

Individual Community Leader: Davida Luehrs. Ms. Luehrs is a champion for the visually impaired. She works with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the American Council for the Blind, and Visually Impaired People of Reston. She has assisted 14 Lions Clubs with hearing and vision screening programs for pre-school children, founded VisionWalk, and chaired Dining in the Dark fundraisers. She is also active in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school band boards, Reston Swim Team Association, parent teacher associations, blood drives, and meals on wheels.

Civic/Community Leader: HomeAid Northern Virginia. Members of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association started HomeAid in 2001 to help the homeless gain stability by putting a roof over their head. It currently contributes resources to build and renovate homeless shelters as well as transitional and affordable housing. HomeAid has completed more than 70 projects and served more than 10,000 individuals, work valued at more than \$10.5 million.

Small Business Leader: Brennan & Waite, P.L.C. Founding members (and husband and

wife) Matthew Brennan and Carol Waite have led their firm to support many local causes, including the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Habitat For Humanity, Let’s Help Kids, the Mosaic Harmony Choir, FACETS, Cornerstones, and Leadership Fairfax. Mr. Brennan also developed a training program to help those interested in serving on county and non-profit boards.

Corporate Business Leader Cooley, LLP. This law firm encourages employees to give back to the community by offering paid leave time to volunteer and providing matching funds for money raised by employees to support local causes. Last year the firm contributed more than \$1 million to nonprofits around the United States. The company’s pro bono efforts have led to contributions of more than 33,000 hours by 466 attorneys on more than 687 different pro bono projects per year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2014 Best of Reston honorees for their continued commitment to our community. I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for contributing their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

CELEBRATING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month this May and to honor the Jewish Americans who have been so instrumental in building and strengthening our country.

Over the past 350 years, Jewish Americans have contributed greatly to history, arts, science, government and culture in our nation and millions have defended and continue to defend this country by serving in our Armed Forces. I am proud to commemorate this month with the Jewish Federation of the Quad-Cities, an organization that has spent over 30 years enriching, educating and supporting the Jewish Community in my district in Illinois.

The impressive contributions of Jewish Americans have also played a vital role in strengthening the important relationship between the United States and the State of Israel. Our country has a long history of supporting and standing with Israel and I was proud to join many of my colleagues on a delegation to Israel during my first year in office. We must preserve our bond into the future as we work together towards the theme of this year’s Heritage Month, which is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the work of the Jewish Federation of the Quad-Cities and thank all Jewish Americans during this month as we honor their extraordinary contributions to our nation.

CONDOLENCES TO THE REPUBLIC
OF TURKEY

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to the people of Turkey for the worst mining accident in that country's history. I recently returned from the region, where my colleagues and I met with Turkish leaders to discuss anti-terrorism cooperation and other issues of bilateral importance. We were received with a very warm welcome and appreciated the opportunity to meet with high level government officials.

The road ahead will not be an easy one. Yet the people of Turkey, one of our strongest allies, should know that they are not alone. The people of the United States will keep them in their thoughts and prayers as they seek to recover from an unbelievable tragedy.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER STEPHEN
ARKELL

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Officer Stephen Arkell of the Brentwood Police Department for his heroism and dedication to the people of New Hampshire. I was deeply saddened to hear the tragic news of Officer Arkell losing his life in the line of duty. Arkell's brave and selfless actions deserve our greatest honor and respect. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and community during this difficult time. In responding to such tragedies, our society shows its capacity for resilience and strength.

Our law enforcement officials and first responders confront danger on a daily basis in order to keep our communities safe from harm, and I am committed to advocating for these dedicated men and women who preserve our safety and protect our families. These courageous men and women devote their lives to protecting our way of life, and earn our utmost gratitude and support on a daily basis.

As a state and a nation, we must work together to stamp out violent crime and protect the men and women like Officer Stephen Arkell who devote themselves to protecting us. We owe our deepest gratitude to Officer Arkell, and to all law enforcement officials for all that they do to make New Hampshire and our nation a safer place to live and work.

H.R. 4435, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole
House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I want to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee and their staffs for working with me on several amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, H.R. 4435.

This legislation reaffirms our commitment to our men and women in uniform, ensuring they have the necessary tools to support our national defense. In addition to my amendments, which will help create savings and improve department management, the bill before the House preserves essential benefits that are important to the thousands of active and retired military personnel and their families living in my Northern Virginia district. It also sustains the critical collaboration with the private sector in my district which partners with the Department on a wide variety of defense priorities, including cybersecurity, logistics, and information technology services.

With respect to federal investments in IT, I was pleased to co-author a comprehensive reform proposal with Chairman ISSA of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. It is based on our bipartisan bill, known as the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, or FITARA, which passed the House with unanimous support earlier this year. I also want to thank our Committee's Ranking Member, Mr. CUMMINGS, for his generosity and leadership on these issues.

In the 21st century, effective governance is inextricably linked with how well government leverages technology to serve its citizens. Yet our current laws governing Federal IT procurement are antiquated, cumbersome, and out of step with technological change.

Our bipartisan FITARA amendment addresses this by comprehensively streamlining and strengthening the Federal IT acquisition process. FITARA recognizes that effective Federal IT procurement reform must begin with leadership and accountability. It enhances CIO authorities to ensure agency heads have talented leaders to serve as their primary advisers on IT management; to recruit and retain talented IT staff; and to oversee critical IT investments across the organization.

FITARA also accelerates data center optimization and strengthens the accountability and transparency of Federal IT programs. If enacted, 80 percent of the approximately \$80 billion spent annually on Federal IT investment would be required to be posted on the online IT Dashboard for the public to review, compared to the 50 percent or less that is available today. Fortunately, a bipartisan consensus is forming around the urgent need to streamline and strengthen how the Federal Government acquires and deploys information technology. Now is the time to ensure IT reforms are adopted government-wide and given the force of law.

I also was pleased to offer an amendment that will permanently authorize the use of simplified acquisition procedures for certain commercial items, which has the support of Department of Defense and other agencies, as well as industry partners, such as the Professional Services Council. This activity was originally authorized as a 3-year test program

under the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996. The program aimed to simplify the contracting process by providing contracting officers with additional discretion and flexibility for the acquisition of commercial items not exceeding \$5 million. Since being enacted, Congress has extended this authority eight separate times, and it is now set to expire on January 1, 2015.

Earlier this year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) submitted a report to Congress, discussing the use of the test authority by the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Interior. GAO found that the test program reduced contracting lead time and administrative burdens with manageable risks. In responding to the GAO report, DHS and DOI both stated that the temporary nature of the test program hindered its use and recommended the authority be made permanent.

The Department of Defense offered the following comments in support of preserving this authority: "The test program provides benefits in terms of reducing lead time and administrative workload and enables faster delivery of much needed supplies and equipment to the Warfighter. For example, the U.S. Army Contracting Command Rock Island Contracting Center, which provides reach-back support to the theater, used this authority to execute several contract requirements in direct support of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) theater of operations in FY 2011. Without this authority, the procurement lead time would have doubled. This could have led to mission failure in contingency operations, particularly those in the CENTCOM theater of operations. In addition, this authority is extremely beneficial in responding to domestic crises such as Hurricane Katrina, Midwest flooding, and recent tornados."

In addition, I offered an amendment to extend for five years a successful hiring authority to allow Federal retirees to be temporarily rehired on a part-time basis to fill critical skills gaps, mentor and train younger workers, and stave off a "brain drain" as more and more Federal employees become eligible to retire. First adopted as part of the NDAA for FY2010, this authority allows the heads of federal agencies to bring back a limited number of Federal retirees for a limited time without them incurring a penalty on the annuity.

Over the past five years, agency leaders report this has been a valuable tool in providing them with flexibility to address staffing needs as retirements have begun to increase. Nearly half of the management staff within some agencies is eligible to retire today, and agencies face further challenges as positions are being left vacant due to budget shortfalls and hiring freezes. Thanks to this re-hiring authority, agencies are able to bring back experienced staff to bridge knowledge gaps and help prepare future leaders. This program is limited in scope so as not to supplant the urgent need to hire and train new federal workers. I was pleased to have the support of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association and the Government Management Coalition, which called this a "good-government initiative."

I also worked with the Armed Services Committee on two foreign affairs-related amendments. The first is a bipartisan amendment that I was pleased to introduce with my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus Reps. DIAZ-BALART (FL), SIREN (NJ), and CARTER (TX). Our amendment directs the